

While the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) was very common in 1911, it was absent here this year (1912).

The Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*) is very rare; the only small breeding colony I have seen in three years I discovered in a clearing, adjoining some fields, on April 27, 1912.

Of the rarer warblers, I have once seen the Prothonotary (*Protonotaria citrea*), a female, on May 27, 1910. The Cerulean (*Dendroica cerulea*) and Golden-winged (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) have been seen once or twice each, the former in June, indicating breeding. For the Prothonotary it is the third record for the county, according to Mr. Gault. The Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*), so rare in most places, is rather common on some days during spring migration. The same holds good for the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylocichla aliciae aliciae*). On certain days during the last week or ten days in May, they may be seen by hundreds in the woods, which would seem to indicate that we are here on one of their highways of spring migration.

BREEDING BIRDS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

BY OSCAR E. BAYNARD.

ALACHUA COUNTY in middle Florida is one of the richest parts of the State so far as its bird life is concerned. This is due to the diversified character of the county. The middle and western parts are rolling with plenty of pine forests, while in the southeastern part is the low lake region with dense hammocks and cypress swamps and higher tracts of pine forests. The greater part of my observation and collecting has been carried on within a radius of twenty miles of Micanopy with several trips to the Suwanee River region.

Owing to the tropical character of the lake region this County is apparently the northern breeding limit of several species.

Out of about one hundred and forty birds that breed in the State, I have found, during the past nine years, ninety-eight breeding in Alachua County, and on my place about two miles east of Micanopy sixty-six. These I have marked with a * in the list.

Bird Island, Orange Lake Reservation of the National Association of Audubon Societies is situated in this county as well as one other protected reservation, and one other large rookery will in all probability be guarded next year. There are probably more Egrets in the county than in all the rest of the State and with the vigorous protection that they are now receiving here it is hoped that they may be the means of repopulating the State with this showy and valuable bird. Water birds are now as plentiful on our flooded prairies and ponds as in the old days that we all thought had passed. In the following list I have added at the end of each paragraph the dates when I have found eggs in the nest.

*1. **Podilymbus podiceps.** PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Resident throughout the year. Not very abundant, however, in the breeding season. Nests about June 1.

*2. **Anhinga anhinga.** ANHINGA, WATER TURKEY.—Resident in great numbers. Begins to lay as early as March 10. Usually rears but one brood, but a persistent layer if disturbed, laying as many as five sets.

3. **Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus.** FLORIDA CORMORANT.—A regular visitor but an irregular breeder. Have only known of its breeding here on two occasions; once in large Cypress Swamp and once on Bird Island in Orange Lake. Nests April 10.

*4. **Anas fuvigula fuvigula.** FLORIDA DUCK.—Unknown in this county to all the old duck hunters until 1906 when it appeared on Paines Prairie and other similar places and began to nest. Resident now and appears to be increasing in numbers. Builds on islands or tussocks in the lakes and also out on the edges in the tall marsh grass and dry sedge. A specimen we have in confinement, caught when young, has mated for two years with a wild Mallard drake and has laid many eggs, none of which however have hatched. Fresh eggs about April 15.

*5. **Aix sponsa.** WOOD DUCK.—Resident throughout the year. Breeds during April and May. This beautiful Summer Duck is becoming yearly scarcer here owing to the summer shooting when the young are unable to fly well. I believe they sometimes rear two broods

6. **Guara alba.** WHITE IBIS, CURLEW.—A regular summer visitor until 1909 when they came in the early spring and began to nest on Bird Island in Orange Lake, where they have increased steadily. Arriving about April 1, they immediately begin nest building. Usually lay three eggs, rarely four. The young are considered good eating and many fall to the guns of the so called hunters.

7. **Plegadis autumnalis.** GLOSSY IBIS, BLACK CURLEW.—I first found this rare and beautiful bird breeding here in 1909 on Bird Island in Orange Lake. Nests April 1 to May 1. Will lay two to three sets if disturbed.

8. **Mycteria americana.** WOOD IBIS, FLINT HEAD.—The last breeding record I have for this County is 1906, when they bred in numbers in a Cypress Swamp in the northeastern part of the county. This rookery of about 1500 nests was nearly exterminated by men and boys who shot the young from the trees, evidently just to see them fall. After the nesting season they come here and feed all summer on our lakes. Fresh eggs about March 15.

9. **Botaurus lentiginosus.** BITTERN.—Resident throughout the year but a rare breeder. One nest found June 15, 1911, near Micanopy by H. H. Simpson.

*10. **Ixobrychus exilis.** LEAST BITTERN.—An abundant resident. Commences to nest in early April, and usually rears two broods.

*11. **Ixobrychus neoxenus.** CORY'S LEAST BITTERN.—Very rare and found only during four years of the nine I have lived in the county. Almost always found in or near small saw grass patches on two certain lakes. Probably more abundant than would appear from its fondness for the almost impenetrable saw grass. Fresh eggs April 20.

12. **Ardea herodias wardi.** WARD'S HERON.—Abundant and resident. Nests in large numbers in rookeries in cypress swamps in February and early March. Have found a few, however, nesting with the small Herons and Egrets in willow ponds and on Bird Island.

13. **Herodias egretta.** EGRET, LONG WHITE.—This beautiful bird was fairly abundant when I first came here, but is now limited to about 300 pairs, nearly all of which are in our protected rookeries. April 1 to 15.

*14. **Egretta candidissima candidissima.** SNOWY EGRET.—Never very abundant during my residence here. Our protected rookeries here shelter the remnant of this showy bird. Not over 250 pairs now left and these have increased from the four pairs that I began guarding three years ago. March 25 to April 10.

*15. **Dichromanassa rufescens.** REDDISH EGRET.—Abundant during 1907 and 1908. Found about 1500 pairs on Bird Island and many straggling pairs in many other localities. One pair only nested in 1911, and have only seen one pair this year.

*16. **Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis.** LOUISIANA HERON.—Abundant and breeds in great numbers throughout the county. March 20 to April 10.

*17. **Florida cærulea.** LITTLE BLUE HERON.—Abundant, in fact the most numerous of all the Herons, breeding in all parts of the county in small ponds in woods, fields and swamps and islands in the lakes. March 20 to April 10.

*18. **Butorides virescens virescens.** GREEN HERON.—Found in all parts of the County, occasionally breeding alone, but more often in rookeries with other Herons. April 1 to 30.

19. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. — This heron, locally called the 'Night Scrooglin,' is abundant and breeds usually earlier than the other herons. Builds in a cypress swamp as a rule, but many are found on Bird Island. March 1 to 15.

20. *Nyctanassa violacea*. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON — Not as abundant as the preceding species. Have found them nesting in the same swamp, but never with them. Nests March 25 to April 10.

21. *Grus mexicana*. SANDHILL CRANE. — Resident but rare. Nests in late April on the flooded prairies of two lakes.

22. *Aramus vociferus*. LIMP KIN. — This strange bird was fairly abundant here formerly, but is now a very rare breeder and in only one swamp to my knowledge. Breeds from November to June, the height of the breeding season being in April and May. I fear that this bird will soon be extinct in the State.

23. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL. — Resident but only tolerably common. Nests in early May in the marshes of our lakes.

*24. *Creciscus jamaicensis*. BLACK RAIL. — Summer resident but very rare. Never found a nest but saw an adult with three young on one occasion in early June.

*25. *Ionornis martinicus*. PURPLE GALLINULE. — An abundant resident, and breeds on all the lakes and ponds where the Bonnetts (*Nuphar advena*) is abundant. Nests from March to August and usually rears two broods.

*26. *Gallinula galeata*. FLORIDA GALLINULE. — Common resident, but not as abundant as the preceding species. Nests from March to July. Inhabits practically the same localities as the Purple Gallinule but usually nests nearer to the water and in the floating masses of Penny-wort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), the eggs being sometimes wet.

27. *Fulica americana*. COOT. — Here in thousands during the winter and many remain during the entire year. A very rare breeder, found one nest being occupied but eggs were not laid in it for some reason. Killed two females in June of this year, full of eggs that would have been ready to lay in a week's time. I have no doubt but that it does nest here occasionally.

28. *Philohela minor*. WOODCOCK. — Resident, but rare. Two nests found this year on February 4, by H. H. Simpson, near Micanopy. One nest contained a set of three eggs, the other had been broken up. This is the second breeding record I know of for Florida.

*29. *Oxyechus vociferus*. KILLDEER. — Abundant resident, nests here in fields near some pond or lake in early April.

*30. *Colinus virginianus floridanus*. FLORIDA BOB-WHITE. — An abundant resident and despite the great numbers killed annually, seems to be more than holding its own. Nests in early April and usually rears two broods. Have found nest with eggs as late as Sept. 15.

31. *Meleagris gallopavo osceola*. FLORIDA WILD TURKEY. — This noble game bird is rapidly nearing extermination in this section, due not so

much to hunting, as to the cultivation of the hammocks and woods where it nests. Full sets are found here about April 15.

*32. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. MOURNING DOVE.— Resident and seems to be increasing notwithstanding it is a game bird. This is due to the education of our farmers who are beginning to realize the great worth of the Dove. Fresh sets May 1.

*33. *Chæmepelia passerina terrestris*. GROUND DOVE.— Abundant and resident. Known locally as the 'Moaning Dove.' Have found them breeding every month of the year except December and January. Builds as often in orange trees as on the ground.

34. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. TURKEY VULTURE.— Common resident and breeds here to some extent in April and early May.

*35. *Catharista urubu*. BLACK VULTURE, CARRION CROW.— An abundant, resident species, nesting in the county by the thousands in the thick swamps, hammocks, and saw palmetto patches. Nests from February to June. Young are about fourteen weeks old before they can fly.

*36. *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK.— A common resident and pretty generally protected by the farmers who know it as the 'Rabbit Hawk.'— Nests here on our lakes on the high tussocks of saw grass and *Sagittaria* in May and early June.

37. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.— Every man's hand here is against the 'Blue Darter,' and it is not as abundant as formerly when it bred in great numbers from April 15 to May 1.

38. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK.— Rare. Have found only two nests in the county in nine years. Fresh eggs about March 15.

39. *Buteo borealis borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK.— Resident but rare. Nests in very tall pines early in March.

*40. *Buteo lineatus alleni*. FLORIDA RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.— Resident and fairly abundant. Nests from February 15 to March 25.

41. *Buteo platypterus*. BROAD-WINGED HAWK.— A very rare bird for this section and found only one nest with two young on May 28, 1909.

42. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE.— Resident and formerly tolerably common, having known of 20 occupied nests in one year. Not holding its own now as every hog raiser in the county kills every one he can on account of the Eagle's perverted taste for razor back pig. Nests about the 10th of December in the tallest pine trees we have and often lays a second set if first is disturbed. Usually lays two eggs.

*43. *Falco sparverius paulus*. LITTLE SPARROW HAWK.— A common resident and pretty evenly distributed throughout the county. Seldom molested as its great love for grasshoppers is well known to the farmers. Usually nests about April 15.

44. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. OSPREY.— Abundant and increasing rapidly. Very erratic in its nesting, and fresh eggs can be found from early February to late May.

45. *Aluco pratincola*. BARN OWL.—A very rare resident and only found near Paines Prairie. Nests in early November.

*46. *Strix varia alleni*. FLORIDA BARRED OWL.—A common resident and abundant in the hammock regions. Seldom molested as their fondness for rabbits is well known. Nests about January 10.

*47. *Otus asio floridanus*. FLORIDA SCREECH OWL.—An abundant resident and breeds April 10 to 25.

48. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL.—Resident but our rarest owl. Breeds here about January 15, usually in an old Eagle's nest.

*49. *Coccyzus americanus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—A common breeder and pretty evenly distributed. Nests from late April to August.

*50. *Ceryle alcyon alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER.—Common resident and nests in early April in holes in dead trees and stubs over water. Never found them nesting in cavities in banks as in the north.

51. *Campephilus principalis*. IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.—Very rare. Found one nest in the County that contained young. Fresh eggs about February 15.

52. *Dryobates villosus auduboni*. SOUTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Rare; nests here in very limited numbers in late April and early May.

53. *Dryobates pubescens pubescens*. SOUTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Regularly nests here in limited numbers in May.

*54. *Dryobates borealis*. RED-CKOADED WOODPECKER.—Not very common until the last three years, but now a common breeder. Nests about May 1.

*55. *Phlœotomus pileatus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—The 'Lord-God,' as he is known in this section, is one of the commonest woodpeckers in the county nesting in the hammocks and cypress swamps in early April.

*56. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Abundant, nesting from early May to late June.

*57. *Centurus carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—Common resident and nests April 1 to May 15.

*58. *Colaptes auratus auratus*. FLICKER.—Abundant and nests from March to June.

*59. *Antrostomus carolinensis*. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—Common and nests from April 10 to June 1.

*60. *Chordeiles virginianus chapmani*. FLORIDA NIGHTHAWK.—An abundant summer resident and nests from April 15 to late in May.

*61. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Summer resident but only tolerably common. Nests from May 15 to June 10.

*62. *Archilochus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Common and nests from May 10 to June 25.

*63. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.—Very abundant, nesting about May 10.

*64. *Myiarchus crinitus*. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.— Abundant, nesting about May 10.

*65. *Myiochanes virens*. WOOD PEWEE.— Rare, nests in early June.

*66. *Cyanocitta cristata florincola*. FLORIDA BLUE JAY.— Abundant, nesting from early March to July.

67. *Aphelocoma cyanea*. FLORIDA JAY.— Very rare and only found nesting in the county once. April 16.

*68. *Corvus brachyrhynchos pascuus*. FLORIDA CROW.— Resident but in limited numbers, nesting from late March to April 15.

*69. *Corvus ossifragus*. FISH CROW.— Abundant, large numbers using Bird Island for a roost. Nests in late April in tall slim pines on edges of the lakes.

*70. *Agelaius phoeniceus floridanus*. FLORIDA RED-WING.— Very abundant resident and nests from March 15 to July 15. Raises two and three broods.

71. *Sturnella magna argutula*. SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK.— Locally abundant in some parts of the county. Nests late in April.

*72. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.— A rare summer visitor nesting in early June.

*73. *Quiscalus quiscula aglæus*. FLORIDA GRACKLE.— Abundant resident breeding in April and May in orange and pear groves and occasionally in a small pine on the edge of some lake.

*74. *Megaquiscalus major major*. BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE, JACKDAW.— Our most abundant blackbird, resident, and nests from March 1 to July, usually rears two broods.

75. *Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*. FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.— Very rare and probably nests in May as found one pair with young that could barely fly late in June on Paines Prairie.

*76. *Peucea æstivalis æstivalis*. PINE-WOODS SPARROW.— Tolerably common and nests from April 15 to 30.

*77. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus alleni*. WHITE-EYED TOWHEE, JOREE.— Abundant resident and nests in April, May and June. Some years apparently more abundant than others.

*78. *Cardinalis cardinalis floridanus*. FLORIDA CARDINAL.— Abundant resident, breeding from April to September. Found nest with young September 15, 1910.

*79. *Piranga rubra rubra*. SUMMER TANAGER.— Common and nests in early May.

*80. *Progne subis subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.— Common breeder and nests from April 1 to May 1.

*81. *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.— Abundant resident, nesting from early February to July. Rears two to three broods.

*82. *Vireosylva olivacea*. RED-EYED VIREO.— Common, nests in early May.

*83. *Vireo griseus griseus*. WHITE-EYED VIREO.— Abundant, nesting from April 1 to May 15.

*84. **Compsothlypis americana americana.** PARULA WARBLER.— Abundant and nests in early April in the cypress swamps.

*85. **Dendroica vigosii.** PINE WARBLER.— Common, nesting in early March in the highest pines in a bunch of the pendant Florida Long Moss.

*86. **Geothlypis trichas ignota.** FLORIDA YELLOW-THROAT.— Very abundant around lakes and swamps and nests in late April and early May.

*87. **Dendroica discolor.** PRAIRIE WARBLER.— Not common, nesting in late April.

*88. **Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.** MOCKINGBIRD.— Abundant, resident, nesting from March to August.

*89. **Dumetella carolinensis.** CATBIRD.— Common winter resident, but a rare breeder. Nests about April 15.

*90. **Toxostoma rufum.** BROWN THRASHER.— Common winter resident and breeds in small numbers about April 16.

*91. **Thryothorus ludovicianus miamensis.** FLORIDA WREN.— Abundant and bred here in great numbers until past two years, when, for some cause, they moved further south. Still common, however. Nests from March to July and rears two or more broods. One set of eggs I collected at Micanopy are typical eggs of the Carolina Wren, and the bird as seen at very close range I took to be the Carolina Wren. I note, however, that Mr. Ridgway regards all our county birds as the Florida Wren and Mr. Stone also assures me that the Carolina Wren does not nest in Florida.

92. **Sitta carolinensis atkinsi.** FLORIDA WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— Rare; breeds here in early March in small numbers.

93. **Sitta pusilla.** BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.— Abundant and breeds from February to May, usually rearing two broods.

*94. **Bæolophus bicolor.** TUFTED TITMOUSE.— Abundant and nests from early February until April.

*95. **Penthestes carolinensis.** CAROLINA CHICKADEE.— Common breeder from early February until June.

*96. **Polioptila cærulea cærulea.** BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.— Common resident and breeds in early April.

*97. **Sialia sialis sialis.** BLUEBIRD.— Common resident and nests from March to June.

98. **Passer domesticus.** ENGLISH SPARROW.— This pernicious nuisance is abundant over the entire county.